



Legislative Report

2020 Use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

June 15, 2021

Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension
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St. Paul, MN 55106
651-793-7000

<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/bca>

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Introduction

Laws of Minnesota 2020, Chapter 82, section 5, subdivision 12a-b requires all law enforcement agencies that maintain or use an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), also known a drone, to report the following data by January 15 regarding the prior calendar year to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS):

- The number of times a UAV was deployed without a search warrant.
- The date of each deployment.
- The authorized use for each deployment (see [Laws of Minnesota 2020, Chapter 82](#), section 5, subdivision 3).
- The total cost of the agency's UAV program.

This report fulfills the further requirement that DPS compile the data into a report for the legislature to be posted on the department's website.

Background

Laws of Minnesota 2020, Chapter 82, was signed into law on May 16, 2020.

The BCA developed and provided a submittal form to law enforcement agencies in August 2020 that enables law enforcement agencies that maintain or use an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) to report the data required by statute in a uniform manner.

The information provided to and compiled by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) in this report covers the reporting period January 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020.

Summary Data

Agency Type and Total Uses without a Search Warrant

- Sheriff's Departments: 46
- Police Departments: 42
- Other (including DNR, State Patrol, BCA, Metro Transit): 5

Total agencies reporting: 93

Total Uses without a search warrant: 1,171

Program Costs

In 2020, Minnesota law enforcement agencies spent a total of \$922,410.71 on UAV agency programs. Information on individual agency costs are provided later in this report.

By-Agency UAV Use

Name of law enforcement agency	ORI Number	Cost of UAV program for calendar year	Number of times UAV used w/out warrant
Anoka County Sheriff	MN0020000	10,000.00	83
Arlington Police Department	MN0720100	0.00	2
Austin Police Department	MN0500100	43,172.23	8
Baxter Police Department	MN0180500	0.00	4
Becker County Sheriff	MN0030000	1,000.00	5
Beltrami County Sheriff	MN0040000	1,000.00	1
Benton County Sheriff	MN0050000	39,382.90	5
Big Lake Police Department	MN0710100	5,000.00	22
Bloomington Police Department	MN0270100	1,070.45	23
Blue Earth County Sheriff	MN0700000		26
Brown County Sheriff	MN0080000	13,000.00	2
Caledonia Police Department	MN0280100	0.00	0
Cambridge Police Department	MN0300100	0.00	0
Cannon River Drug and Violent Offender Task Force		1,436.00	19
Carlton County Sheriff	MN0090000	4,687.97	2
Cass County Sheriff	MN0110000	870.00	3
Chisago County Sheriff	MN0130000	8,459.00	27
Clay County Sheriff	MN0140000	995.00	1
Columbia Heights Police Department	MN0020400	46,400.00	0

Name of law enforcement agency	ORI Number	Cost of UAV program for calendar year	Number of times UAV used w/out warrant
Cook County Sheriff	MN0160000	0.00	0
Coon Rapids Police Department	MN0020500	8,200.00	17
Cottage Grove Police Department	MN0820700	473.98	53
Crow Wing County Sheriff	MN0180000	9,250.00	30
Crystal Police Department	MN0270400	11,000.00	5
Dakota County Sheriff	MN0190000	8,905.88	64
Douglas County Sheriff	MN0210000	2,250.00	9
Eagan Police Department	MN0190800	8,000.00	12
Eden Prairie Police Department	MN0272600	12,388.18	7
Edina Police Department	MN0270600	2,654.00	59
Fisher Police Department	MN0600600	0.00	0
Freeborn County Sheriff	MN0240000	1,720.00	11
Fridley Police Department	MN0020600	0.00	12
Golden Valley Police Department	MN0270800	15,000.00	3
Goodhue County Sheriff	MN0250100	0.00	10
Grand Rapids Police Department	MN0313000	0.00	0
Grant County Sheriff	MN0260000	0.00	4
Hennepin County Sheriff	MN0270000	21,600.00	8
Houston County Sheriff	MN0280000	46.50	1
Kandiyohi County Sheriff	MN0340000	7,218.00	2
Kenyon Police Department	MN0250400	0.00	0
Lac qui Parle County Sheriff	MN0370000	0.00	0
Lake County Sheriff	MN0380000	0.00	5
Le Sueur Police Department	MN0400200	0.00	0
Leech Lake Tribal Police Department		0.00	1
Lyon County Sheriff	MN0420000	0.00	0
Marshall County Sheriff	MN0450000	0.00	0
Marshall Police Department	MN0420100	30,360.00	1
McLeod County Sheriff	MN0430000	4,700.00	8
Metro Transit Police Department	MN0274300	0.00	0
Mille Lacs Tribal Police Department	MNDI02400	13,103.00	8
Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension	MNBCA0000	170,000.00	3
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	MNCON0000		0
Minnesota State Patrol	MNMHP2000	9,796.00	28
Moorhead Police Department	MN0140400	0.00	1
Morrison County Sheriff	MN0490000	421.55	7
Nicollet County Sheriff	MN0520000	2,400.00	25
North St. Paul Police Department	MNO620700	0.00	0
Olmsted County Sheriff	MN0550000	5,000.00	6

Name of law enforcement agency	ORI Number	Cost of UAV program for calendar year	Number of times UAV used w/out warrant
Orono Police Department	MN0271500	8,448.58	77
Ottertail County Sheriff	MN0560000	3,500.00	10
Owatonna Police Department	MN0740100	5,000.00	5
Pequot Lakes Police Department	MN0181100	0.00	1
Plymouth Police Department	MN0271700	500.00	64
Polk County Sheriff	MN0600000	0.00	2
Pope County Sheriff	MN0610000	4,000.00	62
Prior Lake Police Department	MN0700900	0.00	7
Ramsey County Sheriff	MN0620000	71,981.26	7
Red Lake County Sheriff	MN0630000	0.00	0
Redwood County Sheriff	MN0640000	0.00	12
Renville County Sheriff	MN0650000	155.20	4
Rice County Sheriff	MN0660000	310.94	18
Rochester Police Department	MN0550100	6,285.54	6
Saint Cloud Police Department	MN0730400	18,276.00	34
Sauk Centre Police Department	MN0730500	500.00	15
Sauk Rapids Police Department	MN0050200	3,550.66	66
Scott County Sheriff	MN0700000	0.00	0
Sherburne County Sheriff	MN0710000	31,098.00	18
St. Louis County Sheriff	MN0690000	71,737.98	18
Stearns County Sheriff	MN0730000	23,944.00	2
Stillwater Police Department	MN0820600	0.00	1
Swift County Sheriff	MN0760000	0.00	0
Todd County Sheriff	MN0770000	29.49	30
Tracy Police Department	MN0420200	0.00	0
Upper Sioux Police Department	MNDI02300	46,000.00	2
Wadena County Sheriff	MN0800000	1,294.63	13
Waseca County Sheriff	MN0810000	38,269.11	8
Washington County Sheriff	MN8200000	53,442.70	14
West Hennepin Public Safety Department	MN0273700	0.00	0
White Earth Police Department	MNDI01900	0.00	0
Willmar Police Department	MN0340100	3,500.00	23
Winona County Sheriff	MN0850000	0.00	3
Woodbury Police Department	MN0821100	4,125.98	6
Wright County Sheriff	MN0860000	5,500.00	10
Total		922,410.71	1171

Agency Data Submissions

The remaining portion of this report contains the reason codes law enforcement agencies provided for incidents where a UAV was used without a warrant.

Reason Code	Reason
1	During or in the aftermath of an emergency situation that involves the risk of death or bodily harm to a person.
2	Over a public event where there is a heightened risk to the safety of participants or bystanders.
3	To counter the risk of a terrorist attack by a specific individual or organization if the agency determines that credible intelligence indicates a risk.
4	To prevent the loss of life and property in natural or man-made disasters and to facilitate operational planning, rescue, and recovery operations in the aftermath of these disasters.
5	To conduct a threat assessment in anticipation of a specific event.
6	To collect information from a public area if there is reasonable suspicion of criminal activity.
7	To collect information for crash reconstruction purposes after a serious or deadly collision occurring on a public road.
8	Over a public area for officer training or public relations purposes.
9	For purposes unrelated to law enforcement at the request of a government entity provided that the government entity makes the request in writing to the law enforcement agency and specifies the reason for the request and proposed period of use.

By-Agency UAV Use Reason

Law enforcement agency	Reason Code 1	Reason Code 2	Reason Code 3	Reason Code 4	Reason Code 5	Reason Code 6	Reason Code 7	Reason Code 8	Reason Code 9
Anoka County Sheriff's Office	39					40		4	
Arlington Police Department								1	1
Austin Police Department	1			4				2	1
Baxter Police Department	1					1		2	
Becker County Sheriff's Office	4					1			
Beltrami County Sheriff's Office	1								
Benton County Sheriff's Office				1		1	2	1	
Big Lake Police Department	8	1		1		3		9	
Bloomington Police Department	12						3	8	
Blue Earth County Sheriff's Office	6						2	7	11

Law enforcement agency	Reason Code 1	Reason Code 2	Reason Code 3	Reason Code 4	Reason Code 5	Reason Code 6	Reason Code 7	Reason Code 8	Reason Code 9
Brown County Sheriff's Office	1					1			
Caledonia Police Department									
Cambridge Police Department									
Cannon River Drug and Violent Offender Task Force	6					4		9	
Carlton County Sheriff's Office	2								
Cass County Sheriff's Office	2							1	
Chisago County Sheriff's Office	6				5	11	1	3	1
Clay County Sheriff's Office		1							
Colombia Heights Police Department									
Cook County Sheriff's Office									
Coon Rapids Police Department	4					1		12	
Cottage Grove Police Department	15			1		19		18	
Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office	18			1		10	1		
Crystal Police Department								5	
Dakota County Sheriff's Office	17			1	1	8	5	30	2
Douglas County Sheriff's Office	6					1	1	1	
Eagan Police Department	8					3		1	
Eden Prairie Police Department	3							4	
Edina Police Department	7							52	
Fisher Police Department									
Freeborn County Sheriff's Office	5	2		1				3	
Fridley Police Department	12								

Law enforcement agency	Reason Code 1	Reason Code 2	Reason Code 3	Reason Code 4	Reason Code 5	Reason Code 6	Reason Code 7	Reason Code 8	Reason Code 9
Golden Valley Police Department	1					1			1
Goodhue County Sheriff's Office	1	1				5		2	1
Grand Rapids Police Department									
Grant County Sheriff's Office	1			2					1
Hennepin County Sheriff's Office	5							3	
Houston County Sheriff's Office	1								
Kandiyohi County Sheriff's Office								2	
Kenyon Police Department									
Lac qui Parle County Sheriff's Office									
Lake County Sheriff's Office	2					3			
Le Sueur Police Department									
Leech Lake Tribal Police Department	1								
Lyon County Sheriff's Office									
Marshall County Sheriff's Office									
Marshall Police Department	1								
McLeod County Sheriff's Office	3					1	2	1	1
Metro Transit Police Department									
Mille Lacs Tribal Police Department	4					4			
Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension								3	
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources									
Minnesota State Patrol								28	

Law enforcement agency	Reason Code 1	Reason Code 2	Reason Code 3	Reason Code 4	Reason Code 5	Reason Code 6	Reason Code 7	Reason Code 8	Reason Code 9
Moorhead Police Department								1	
Morrison County Sheriff's Office						5		2	
Nicollet County Sheriff's Office	8			3		5	3	3	3
North St. Paul Police Department									
Olmsted County Sheriff's Office	1						1	4	
Orono Police Department								77	
Ottertail County Sheriff's Office	6	1		1		1			1
Owatonna Police Department		2				1		1	1
Pequot Lakes Police Department	1								
Plymouth Police Department	21	3				1	4	35	
Polk County Sheriff's Office								2	
Pope County Sheriff's Office	5						1	56	
Prior Lake Police Department	3					4			
Ramsey County Sheriff's Office	7								
Red Lake County Sheriff's Office									
Redwood County Sheriff's Office	1	1				3	1	3	3
Renville County Sheriff's Office	4								
Rice County Sheriff's Office	7					6		5	
Rochester Police Department						5	1		
Saint Cloud Police Department	19					4	4	7	
Sauk Centre Police Department	4			1		10			
Sauk Rapids Police Department	9			1		3		49	4

Law enforcement agency	Reason Code 1	Reason Code 2	Reason Code 3	Reason Code 4	Reason Code 5	Reason Code 6	Reason Code 7	Reason Code 8	Reason Code 9
Scott County Sheriff									
Sherburne County Sheriff's Office	2			1				15	
St. Louis County Sheriff's Office	8			2		3		5	
Stearns County Sheriff's Office	2								
Stillwater Police Department									1
Swift County Sheriff's Office									
Todd County Sheriff's Office	12			2		8	3	2	3
Tracy Police Department									
Upper Sioux Police Department	2								
Wadena County Sheriff's Office	6			3			1	2	1
Waseca County Sheriff's Office	1							7	
Washington County Sheriff's Office	8					1		5	
West Hennepin Public Safety Department									
White Earth Police Department									
Willmar Police Department	7			1		1	3	10	1
Winona County Sheriff's Office									
Woodbury Police Department	3							3	
Wright County Sheriff's Office	1					6			3
Totals	352	12	0	27	6	185	39	506	41

Agency Data Submission Form

Below is the form used by agencies for UAV data submissions to the BCA.



Please fill out this form as completely as possible.

Agency Information

Name of Law Enforcement Agency	Originating Agency Identifier (ORI)
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

UAV Program Data for Calendar Year

Calendar Year of Submission	Cost of UAV Program for Calendar Year	Number of Times UAVs Deployed Without Warrant
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Uses of UAVs Without Warrant

For each deployment of a UAV without a search warrant, provide the following on the second page of this form:

- date of the deployment
- statutory reason for the deployment

If you require space for additional entries, submit additional copies of this form.

The reasons for a UAV deployment without a search warrant allowed by statute are provided below:

Reason Code	Reason
1	during or in the aftermath of an emergency situation that involves the risk of death or bodily harm to a person
2	over a public event where there is a heightened risk to the safety of participants or bystanders
3	to counter the risk of a terrorist attack by a specific individual or organization if the agency determines that credible intelligence indicates a risk
4	to prevent the loss of life and property in natural or man-made disasters and to facilitate operational planning, rescue, and recovery operations in the aftermath of these disasters
5	to conduct a threat assessment in anticipation of a specific event
6	to collect information from a public area if there is reasonable suspicion of criminal activity
7	to collect information for crash reconstruction purposes after a serious or deadly collision occurring on a public road
8	over a public area for officer training or public relations purposes
9	for purposes unrelated to law enforcement at the request of a government entity provided that the government entity makes the request in writing to the law enforcement agency and specifies the reason for the request and proposed period of use

This form must be submitted to the BCA no later than January 15 of each calendar year.

To submit the form, click the button below or email the completed form to BCA.UAV.Submit@state.mn.us.

[Submit completed form to BCA via email](#)

MINIS-F-5038
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#	Deployment Date	Reason Code	#	Deployment Date	Reason Code	#	Deployment Date	Reason Code	#	Deployment Date	Reason Code
1		Sal ▼	26		Sal ▼	61		Sal ▼	76		Sal ▼
2		Sal ▼	27		Sal ▼	62		Sal ▼	77		Sal ▼
3		Sal ▼	28		Sal ▼	63		Sal ▼	78		Sal ▼
4		Sal ▼	29		Sal ▼	64		Sal ▼	79		Sal ▼
6		Sal ▼	30		Sal ▼	65		Sal ▼	80		Sal ▼
6		Sal ▼	31		Sal ▼	66		Sal ▼	81		Sal ▼
7		Sal ▼	32		Sal ▼	67		Sal ▼	82		Sal ▼
8		Sal ▼	33		Sal ▼	68		Sal ▼	83		Sal ▼
8		Sal ▼	34		Sal ▼	68		Sal ▼	84		Sal ▼
10		Sal ▼	35		Sal ▼	69		Sal ▼	85		Sal ▼
11		Sal ▼	36		Sal ▼	69		Sal ▼	86		Sal ▼
12		Sal ▼	38		Sal ▼	69		Sal ▼	88		Sal ▼
13		Sal ▼	37		Sal ▼	80		Sal ▼	87		Sal ▼
14		Sal ▼	38		Sal ▼	81		Sal ▼	88		Sal ▼
16		Sal ▼	39		Sal ▼	82		Sal ▼	89		Sal ▼
18		Sal ▼	40		Sal ▼	83		Sal ▼	90		Sal ▼
17		Sal ▼	41		Sal ▼	84		Sal ▼	91		Sal ▼
18		Sal ▼	42		Sal ▼	85		Sal ▼	92		Sal ▼
18		Sal ▼	43		Sal ▼	86		Sal ▼	93		Sal ▼
20		Sal ▼	44		Sal ▼	87		Sal ▼	94		Sal ▼
21		Sal ▼	45		Sal ▼	88		Sal ▼	95		Sal ▼
22		Sal ▼	46		Sal ▼	89		Sal ▼	96		Sal ▼
23		Sal ▼	48		Sal ▼	90		Sal ▼	98		Sal ▼
24		Sal ▼	47		Sal ▼	91		Sal ▼	97		Sal ▼
25		Sal ▼	48		Sal ▼	92		Sal ▼	98		Sal ▼
			49		Sal ▼	93		Sal ▼	99		Sal ▼
			50		Sal ▼	94		Sal ▼	100		Sal ▼
						95		Sal ▼			
						96		Sal ▼			
						97		Sal ▼			
						98		Sal ▼			
						99		Sal ▼			
						100		Sal ▼			

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